

CLAIMS

1. *Brevibacillus choshinensis* not forming spores.

2. *Brevibacillus choshinensis* having the following mycological properties and not forming spores:

(a) Morphology:

size of cell:

liquid medium: 0.4 to 0.6 × 1.5 to 4 μm,

form of cell: bacillus,

presence or absence of spore: absence,

(b) Physiological properties:

reduction of nitrate: -,

VP test: -,

utilization of citric acid: +,

urease: -,

oxidase: +,

catalase: +,

(c) Other properties:

temperature resistance: die at 60°C.

3. *Brevibacillus choshinensis* not forming spores, characterized in that its sporulation-associated gene *hos* is inactivated.

4. *Brevibacillus choshinensis* as claimed in claim 3, wherein the sporulation-associated gene *hos* has a base sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

5. *Brevibacillus choshinensis* not forming spores, of which the extracellular and/or intracellular protease activity has been reduced or lost.

6. *Brevibacillus choshinensis* having the following mycological properties and not forming spores:

(a) Morphology:

size of cell:

liquid medium: 0.4 to 0.6 × 1.5 to 4 μm,

form of cell: bacillus,

presence or absence of spore: absence,

(b) Physiological properties:

reduction of nitrate: -,

VP test: -,

utilization of citric acid: +,

urease: -,

oxidase: +,

catalase: +,

(c) Other properties:

temperature resistance: die at 60°C,

extracellular protease activity: low or absent,

intracellular protease activity: low or absent.

7. *Brevibacillus choshinensis* characterized in that its extracellular major protease gene *emp* is inactivated.

8. *Brevibacillus choshinensis* as claimed in claim 7, wherein the extracellular major protease gene *emp* has a base

sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

9. *Brevibacillus choshinensis* characterized in that its intracellular major protease gene *imp* is inactivated.

10. *Brevibacillus choshinensis* as claimed in claim 9, wherein the intracellular major protease gene *imp* has a base sequence of SEQ ID NO:5.

11. *Brevibacillus choshinensis* characterized in that its extracellular major protease gene *emp* and its intracellular major protease gene *imp* are inactivated.

12. *Brevibacillus choshinensis* as claimed in claim 11, which does not form spores.

13. *Brevibacillus choshinensis* HPD31-SP3 (FERM BP-08479).

14. *Brevibacillus choshinensis* constructed by transforming the *Brevibacillus choshinensis* as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 13, with an expression vector having a protein-encoding gene inserted thereinto.

15. A method for producing a protein, characterized by including a step of cultivating the *Brevibacillus choshinensis* transformant of claim 14.

16. A method for producing a recombinant protein, characterized by using the *Brevibacillus choshinensis* as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 13, as a host in recombinant protein production.